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A FEW OBSERVATIONS

ON

MINERAL WATERS;

PARTICULARLY

HORWOOD WELL,

NEAR WINCANTON, SOMERSET.

THE virtues and efficacy of Mineral Waters in most cases of disease, according to their several natures, and the particular properties of the Waters themselves, when administered with discretion, have long been allowed; and the great increase of population in the different watering-places in this kingdom, and the great resort of invalids to them, bear ample testimony to this effect. The nature of their several properties, and the important rank they ought to bear in the Materia Medica, till of late years have been very little attended to; and, unfortunately, after their merits had been in a great measure discovered, they fell into the hands of empirics, who were to-

tally unacquainted with any of their good properties, (except that they were *mineral*,) and who indiscriminately prescribed them in all diseases. The result, as might naturally be expected, was, that few of the many who sought relief from their several disorders had their expectations realised.—Independent of this great objection to their use, another, of much greater weight, was started against them. The venders of these *Mineral Waters*, after having them *partially* analysed, found out, as they imagined, a method of composing *Waters* of every description; and purchasers might be accommodated with every kind of *Spa Water*, which not only this country happily supplied us with, but which were to be found in every part of Europe; and the *Bath*, *Buxton*, *Harrowgate*, *Seltzer*, and *Pyrmont Waters* (which emanated from the laboratories of chemists), were to be acquired in every town, and in every part of the metropolis.

If we take a view of the circumstances which gave rise to the use of these *Wells* or *Spas*, we shall find that accident has contributed more than physical or philosophical research to their discovery.—The discoverers of *Mineral Spas* have long been considered as entitled to the thanks and gratitude of their country, and mankind in general; and in a very old publication of *Philosophical Transactions* we find the following passage, which



may be considered as worthy of general attention, and very applicable to the present address, viz.

“Whoever discovers such HEALING WATERS, and publicly prescribes the safe and right use of them, does really contribute larger and nobler alms than if he built or endowed a *Savoy*, for this prolongs life, and restores health to the rich and the poor, to natives and to strangers, to neighbours and to travellers.” And the celebrated *Hoffman*, physician to the King of Prussia, in one of his valuable publications, makes this pertinent remark:—“*Mineral Waters*, both *hot* and *cold*, are of such virtue and efficacy in the preservation of health, and the cure of diseases, as in the highest degree to exceed *shop remedies* prepared by the nicest art.”—The same author, in his “Experiment and Observations on MINERAL WATERS,” observes, “Those Waters approach the nearest of any thing in nature to what has been so much sought after—a *universal medicine suited to the cure of all diseases*; and that such *Waters* are, at the same time, the most *efficacious* and the most *innocent* of all the Medicines heretofore discovered; and that they never fail of success when the physician knows how to apply them seasonably, and in a right manner.”—From these observations, it may reasonably be inferred that the study of the nature and properties of *Mineral Waters* is most

likely not only to contribute largely to the advantages which the way of the art of healing already affords, but to become also highly serviceable to the researches of the natural historian.

No accidental circumstance or philosophical researches have, till lately, discovered the properties of the *Water* of HORWOOD WELL ; but from the repeated and constant applications of the inhabitants of that neighbourhood, who daily afforded instances of success from the use of the HORWOOD WATER, both *externally* and *internally*, in a great variety of cases, the Proprietors have been induced to have *an accurately chemical analysis* taken of its contents, the result of which has enabled them to offer to the attention of the Public a *Mineral Water*, widely differing in its component particles from those at present resorted to, and such as promises to become eminently serviceable in a great variety of disorders, and interesting, in its importance, to the invalid part of the community.—Many very valuable *Mineral Waters* have fallen into disrepute from the combined circumstances of an indiscriminate use of them by persons labouring under diseases perfectly opposite in their nature, and from a want of an accurate *analysis* whereby to direct the physician in the recommendation of its use. A *Mineral Water*, whose properties have been accurately discovered, and whose several component

particles, and their exact proportions, have been ascertained, cannot fail to become a *valuable addendum* to the *Materia Medica*, and afford medical practitioners the opportunity of relieving many diseases which have resisted their utmost exertions to remedy. To remove such inconveniencies, and to afford the public in general, and physicians in particular, an accurate knowledge of the properties of the HORWOOD WELL WATER, a most accurate analysis, made by an eminent chemist, from whose repeated experiments the Proprietors are in full possession of its properties, warrants them with confidence to recommend it in the following diseases, viz. Asthma, Bilious Affections, Scurvy, and Scrofula.

If such great advantages appear to have been derived from the use of the *Horwood Well Water*, when the Proprietors were unacquainted with its properties, and of course unable to account for the effects of its operation, surely there is now much greater inducement to the invalid to have recourse to it as a Medicine, when, from the knowledge of its virtues, and the causes of its effects, they may be able to inform him whether or not the properties of this *Water* will be of service to his complaint; and whoever now shall make use of it will not be subjected to a disappointment in his expectations.

The opponents of MINERAL WATERS have, in

justification of their own arguments against its use, advanced the absurd proposition “ that it is “ the mineral spirit which produces its effect, and “ that this spirit can never be discovered.” To this weak objection a very simple answer evidently presents itself, viz. that *water*, considered simply and exclusively of other *helps*, will neither answer character nor expectation ; but that these *Simple Waters*, when aided by MINERAL MATTER, will answer both. Now from the analysis which has been made of the HORWOOD WELL WATER, its MINERAL MATTER, or, in other words, its mineral particles, and medical properties, are accurately and completely ascertained ; and from a knowledge of its contents, and of the *Minerals* from whence it springs, and with which it is impregnated, has been obtained, and since, from evident examples and from experiment, it has been ascertained what alteration is produced on the *solids* and *fluids* of the human body by the use of the HORWOOD WELL WATER, and of the effects of its spirit. Nothing farther need be advanced to recommend its use to the public but to enumerate a few cases where its valuable effects have been discovered, and from which the invalid, by comparison, may be able to judge of the probability of deriving advantage from its application.

The Proprietors have annexed a few respectable cases of Cures performed by the *Horwood Well Water*.

Case of Asthma.

Mrs. Tuck, wife of John Tuck, Esq. had long laboured under a confirmed Asthma, which rendered life a burthen to her. From drinking half a dozen bottles of the Horwood Well Water, she was so much relieved that she could walk with ease, and, to use her own expressions, could eat a hearty supper, and sleep well after it, though for many years previous to her drinking the Water she could not lay herself down in bed, fearful of suffocation.

Bilious Affection, with Gout.

Dear Sir, Treasury, Tower, 27th July 1805.

From your recommendation of the Mineral Water on your estate in Somersetshire, you were so kind to favour me with six bottles; and having found relief from the Gouty and Bilious complaints I have for years been troubled with, I have this day taken the liberty of writing to your tenant for a farther supply of three gallons, fully convinced by perseverance it will be the means of effecting a cure.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

CLARK DURNFORD.

W. Gapper, Esq.

Case of Erysipelas or Saint Anthony's Fire.

Charles-Street, Queen's Elms,
 Mr. Gapper, Chelsea, Dec. 31, 1805.

This is to certify, that having for some time past been afflicted with St. Anthony's Fire in my eyes and face, to a violent degree, attended with excruciating pain, I had taken many medicines, and used many applications, without relief, till I was fortunately advised by some persons, in my neighbourhood, who had received great benefit from the Horwood Well Water. I was induced to try it, and am happy to add, that under the blessing of God it has made, in a very short period, a perfect cure of my face and eyes.

I am, Sir, yours &c.

ELIZABETH BUDDING,
 Wife of Mr. William Budding, Baker.

Witness to the cure,

Mrs. BRIDGET HATHEWAY,
 Widow of the late Mr. Hatheway, Apothecary,
 of Park-Street, Grosvenor-Square.

My dear Friend, Wincaunton, Oct. 23, 1805.

Sarah George, a child of about four years old, being afflicted with a violent eruption, had recourse to the Horwood Well Water, and after drinking (and washing the parts frequently with) some of the Water, she received a perfect cure.

I am, my dear friend,

Your obliged humble servant,

JOHN RADFORD,

Curate of Wincaunton.

W. Gapper, Esq. Balsam House, Wincaunton.

By the recommendation of two of Mr. Wadman's daughters, of Horsington, they having witnessed the extraordinary effects of the Horwood Well Water in an obstinate Scorbatic complaint, Mr. John Burden, Miller's Court, Walcot-Street, Bath, was induced to try it on a little boy, a friend of his, whose blood was infected in a violent degree, and his body and face covered with eruptions. After trying various medicines without relief, Mr. Burden had the satisfaction to see the boy perfectly cured by the Horwood Well Water.

Scrophula.

This is to certify, that the Horwood Well Water perfectly cured me of the Evil.

Wincaunton, Somerset,

WILLIAM STACEY.

Oct. 16, 1805.

This is to certify, that the Mineral Water of Horwood Well, by washing and drinking it, made a perfect cure on me of the Evil.

MARY HOBBS.

Wincaunton, Oct. 25, 1805.

Observation of a Surgeon of eminence:—The above persons may be seen any day at Wincaunton, and the scars are far more smooth and even than any I ever saw after the healing of Scrofulous sores.

The Proprietors will add one case more, to shew the efficacy of the Water in Diarrhoea.

I John Mitchell, of Wincanton, do testify, that I was very ill with the Flux for the space of two months or more, and that by drinking half a pint of the Horwood Well Water every morning fasting, for a month, I am perfectly recovered from that disorder. As witness my hand, this 20th day of October 1805.

Innumerable other cases could be added, but the Proprietors think it unnecessary to teaze the reader with a repetition of Scorbutic and Scrofulous cases.

As a Spring physic it is unrivalled.

Ladies will find great benefit by using the *Horwood Well Water*, not only as a cure for Eruptions on the face, &c. but also as a preventive, as it protects the skin from the effects of sun in summer, and of cold winds in winter.—Gentlemen also, by dabbing their faces after shaving, will find great advantage, especially after using a bad razor.

The WELL is situated close to Wincaunton, where every accommodation may be had on very

reasonable terms; the surrounding country is beautiful in the extreme, commanding extensive views. A Physician, Surgeons, and Apothecaries reside in the town, who may be consulted in cases where the advice of the faculty may be deemed necessary.

The *Horwood Well Water* may be had at the Warehouse, *High Road, Knightsbridge*, opposite to *Sloane-Street*, wholesale and retail, at 2s. 9d. per Bottle, or 30s. per dozen. Also, at Mr. FORES'S Caricature Print Warehouse, Corner of *Sackville-Street, Piccadilly*.

Directions for taking the Horwood Well Water.

Children may take from one to two wine-glasses full; Adults, half a pint, night and morning, about an hour before going to rest, and about an hour before breakfast; to increase or diminish it as occasion may require, so as to keep the body gently soluble, but not to act as an aperient.

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